

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /010 W

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R 240730Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8290

UNCLAS TUNIS 1098

FOR MACK AFN/NEA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA BGEN

SUBJECT: TWINNED CITIES: GAFSA AND INDIO, CALIFORNIA

1. DCM HAS RECEIVED LETTER DATED FEB 6 FROM MAYOR RINDERHAGEN OF INDIO, CALIF (NOW TWINNED WITH GAFSA), INFORMING US OF ARRIVAL IN TUNISIA O/A MARCH 12 OF CITY OF INDIO REPRESENTATIVE AND "GOOD WILL AMBASSADOR," DR. RICHARD P. PARKINSON AND HIS WIFE. ENCLOSED CORRESPONDENCE TO BEN MESSAOUD, PRESIDENT OF GAFSA MUNICIPALITY (AND SEC STATE IN GOT MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE), INDICATES PARKINSON INTENTION TO VISIT CITY MARCH 12 - 14 ON GOOD WILL MISSION. THERE MAY BE PROBLEM, HOWEVER. PARKINSON ITINERARY SHOWS HOTEL RESERVATION IN GAFSA MARCH 12, BUT MAYOR'S LETTER INDICATES THAT INDIO IS SENDING VARIETY OF SMALL PACKAGES TO EMBASSY FOR PARKISNON TO RETRIEVE AND PRESENT TO GAFSA. PROBLEM IS THAT GAFSA AND TUNIS ARE 5 - 6 HOURS APART BY ROAD AND THERE NO REGULARLY SCHEDULED AIR TRAVEL. THEREFORE, IF PARKINSONS ARE ARRIVING TUNIS MARCH 12, (NOT DATE SHOWN ON ITINERARY AND NO INDICATION OF HOTEL RESERVATION) CHANCES ARE VERY SLIM THEY WILL BE ABLE STOP BY EMBASSY, ARRANGE FOR TRANSPORT AND STILL MAKE GAFSA SAME DAY.

2. EMBASSY WISHES BE HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE TO PARKINSON (E.G., AMB WOULD BE WILLING HOST LUNCHEON FOR THEM IF THEY WOULD LIKE). WOULD APPRECIATE THEREFORE IF UNCLASSIFIED

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YOU WOULD CONTACT MAYOR'S OFFICE IN INDIO (PARKINSON

HAS ALREADY LEFT ON FAR-EASTERN TRIP), INFORM THEM OF PARA 1, AND ASK THEM IF THERE ANY WAY THEY CAN TRANSMIT INFO TO PARKINSON. WE FEAR THAT PARKINSONS MAY NOT REALIZE FACTS OF TRANSPORTATION LIFE HERE AND WE ARE THEREFORE RELUCTANT TO GET DEEPLY INVOLVED WITH BEN MESSAOUD CONCERNING PLANS FOR THEIR VISIT TO GAFSA UNTIL WE HAVE CLEARER IDEA OF PARKINSON TRAVEL PLANS (MAYOR'S LETTER TO BEN MESSAOUD SAYS GAFSA WILL BE INFORMED EITHER BY DCM OR PARKINSON DIRECTLY OF TRAVEL PLANS).
SEELYE

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